

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	6:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.J.Res. 10 - Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States (*Rep. Cunningham - Judiciary*) (2 Hours of Debate - Restrictive Rule). This joint resolution would submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution that would give Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. The resolution requires two-thirds majority for passage in the House (and Senate), and then must be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

Yesterday, the House adopted a Rule that makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute to be offered by Rep. Watt:

- **Watt Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (1 hour).** To require that any statute enacted by Congress pursuant to the proposed Constitutional amendment must be consistent with the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

H.R. 2985 - Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY06 (*Rep. Taylor {NC} - Appropriations*) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides \$2.9 billion for FY06 (excluding Senate funds which will bring this bill to \$3.7 billion), a \$172.5 million increase above FY05. Highlights of this bill include: \$1.09 billion for the House of Representatives; \$239 million for the Capitol Police; \$317 million for the Architect of the Capitol; \$35 million for the Congressional Budget Office; \$543 million for the Library of Congress; \$489 million for the Government Accountability Office; and \$122 million for the Government Printing Office. This bill also includes the text of HR 841, a bill to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 49 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House in extraordinary circumstances --- HR 841 was adopted by the House on March 3rd on a 329-68 vote.

The Rules Committee has recommended a restrictive Rule that provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Rule makes in order five amendments, which are debatable for 10 minutes each:

- **Baird Amendment.** To strike the text of HR 841 from the bill.
- **Davis, Jo Ann Amendment.** To strike the provisions prohibiting the Capitol Police from operating a mounted horse unit and requiring the transfer of the horses and equipment to the U.S. Park Police.
- **Flake/Blumenauer Amendment.** To decrease GPO Congressional Printing and Binding budget by \$5.4 million. This cut is intended to reduce the number of copies of the Congressional Record that are printed each day from 6,000 to 1,000.
- **McCaul Amendment.** To decrease the GPO Congressional Printing and Binding funds by \$2 million and increase Capitol Police general expenses funds by \$2 million. This transfer of funds is intended to reduce the number of copies of bills, resolutions, and amendments that GPO prints and distributes to each sponsor and original co-sponsor.
- **Hefley Amendment.** To cut funds in the bill by 1%.

Unfortunately, the Rules failed to make in order an amendment by Rep. Tierney to create a Truman Commission to investigate contracting abuses in Iraq.

TOMORROW’S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to consider: **H.R. 3010 - Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act for FY06 (*Rep. Regula - Appropriations*) (Subject to a Rule).**

Daily Quote...

“Things aren’t getting better [in Iraq]; they’re getting worse. The White House is completely disconnected from reality. It’s like they’re just making it up as they go along. The reality is that we’re losing in Iraq.”

- Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel (NE), in *U.S. News and World Report* this week